Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination system ~~(300)~~ comprising a light guide ~~(302)~~ having an entrance face, an exit face and an aperture in which a light source ~~(301)~~ can be arranged, the system being characterized in that it comprises:

a light reflective structure ~~(307)~~ arranged in proximity to the light guide ~~(302)~~ entrance face, the light reflective structure ~~(307)~~ being arranged with an aperture in which the light source ~~(301)~~ can be fitted; and

a first light refractive structure ~~(306)~~ arranged in proximity to the light guide ~~(302)~~ exit face, in which first light refractive structure ~~(306)~~:

at least a subset of light beams of a first angular interval ~~(303)~~ with respect to the optical axis ~~(304)~~ of the system ~~(300)~~ is refracted to illuminate the light guide ~~(302)~~ exit face, and

at least a subset of light beams of a second angular interval ~~(305)~~ with respect to said optical axis ~~(304)~~ is reflected to be recycled in the light guide ~~(302)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

a light diffusing element ~~(408)~~ arranged between the light reflective structure ~~(407)~~ and the first light refractive structure ~~(406)~~ to alter the angle of light beams incident on said diffusing element ~~(408)~~ with respect to the optical axis ~~(404)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300, 400)~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reflective polarizer arranged ~~(509)~~ in proximity to the light guide ~~(502)~~ exit face to transmit light beams of a first polarization mode and reflect light beams of a second polarization mode.

4. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300, 400)~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

a polarization converting element ~~(510)~~ arranged in the light guide ~~(502)~~ to alter the polarization mode of light beams incident on said polarization converting element ~~(510)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300, 400, 500)~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second light refracting structure ~~(611)~~ arranged in proximity to the light guide ~~(602)~~ entrance face to increase the angle of light beams refracted in said second light refracting structure ~~(611)~~ with respect to the optical axis ~~(604)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300, 400, 500, 600)~~ according to claim 1, the light guide ~~(702)~~ having a plurality of apertures, wherein a light source ~~(701', 701", 701"')~~ can be arranged in each aperture and a dichroic coating ~~(713', 713", 713"')~~ adapted to the spectral properties of the respective light source ~~(701', 701", 701"')~~ is arranged in each aperture.

7. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1, wherein the light source ~~(301)~~ is a LED.

8. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1, wherein the light source ~~(301)~~ is a laser.

9. (Currently Amended) The illumination system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1, wherein the light source ~~(301)~~ is a gas discharge lamp.

10. (Currently Amended) A display system comprising the illumination system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) A projection display system comprising the illumination system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A direct view LCD system comprising the illumination system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1.

13. (New) The illumination system of claim 1, wherein the optical axis of the system is normal to light guide exit face, and wherein the subset of light beams of the first angular interval that are refracted by the first light refractive structure to illuminate the light guide exit face make an angle with respect to the optical axis that is greater than an angle with respect to the optical axis that is made by the subset of light beams of the second angular interval that is reflected to be recycled in the light guide.

14. (New) The illumination system of claim 1, wherein the first light refractive structure comprises a plurality of prisms.

15. (New) The illumination system of claim 1, wherein the entrance face and exit face of the light guide are opposite to and in parallel with each other.